

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendments, claim 1 now corresponds to original claims 1 and 2 with the additional recitation that the sintered plate is between a pair of green layers for the substrate. As a result, it respectfully submitted that the claim rejections have been rendered moot.

There was a rejection of original claim 2 over Kodama at one time in this application. However, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection should be not be repeated.

The Kodama patent relates to a method of producing a multilayer ceramic embody, having improved dimensional accuracy, particularly on its surface. This result is achieved by providing a sintered body in which the whole or a part of a side face has a curved surface without causing shrinkage in the surface layer by sintering. This is attained not only by controlling the pressures applied, but also by controlling at optimum level of the frictional or constraining force between a material which applies a pressure and a material to which pressure is applied (column 2, ll. 53-60). Among the various embodiments disclosed, one includes employing a substrate which has been fired as an interior layer (column 11, ll. 29-35; column 13, ll. 50 et seq.). A fired body is, of course, not necessarily sintered. Also, the reference has no teaching or suggesting of using a sintered plate which is thinner than the green sheets. The reference does not teach or suggest the claimed invention.

In light of the amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition to be allowed and the early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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